

**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application
PCT/EP00/00903 filed February 4, 2000**

Invention" and insert the following new section heading and new paragraph:

--BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

AZ The present invention relates, in general, to food additives and phytosterols for use therein, and more particularly, to a new process for the production of phytosterols substantially free from citrostadienol.--

At page 3, line 1 thereof, please insert the following new section heading:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--

At page 6, between lines 1 and 2, please add the following new paragraph:

--What is claimed is:--

On a separate, new page 7, following page 6, please add the following new section heading and paragraph containing an Abstract of the Disclosure:

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Processes for preparing substantially citrostadienol-free phytosterols are disclosed. The processes described include dissolving a liquid phytosterol in a hydrocarbon solvent, optionally with added methanol, and crystallizing the phytosterol compounds. Also described are the resulting phytosterols which are substantially citrostadienol-free, and preferably contain less than 0.5% by weight citrostadienol.--

In the Claims:

Please add new claims 9-37, as follows:

587
A3 --9. (New) A process for preparing phytosterols, said process comprising:

- (a) providing a liquid phytosterol starting material obtained by transesterification of a distillation residue with an alkanol;
- (b) dissolving the liquid phytosterol starting material in a hydrocarbon